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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CA-02	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	FDRE-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-13	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MFLO-03	M-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/050W			

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R 271328Z FEB 95
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
SECSTATE WASHDC 0253

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 000594

E.O. 12356: DECL, OADR
TAGS: PREL, PHUM PGOV, RW, US
SUBJECT: RWANDAN FOREIGN MINISTER OFFERS AGENDA FOR
RECONCILIATION

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT

2. I ASKED TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER GASANA ON FEBRUARY
23 TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATE OF INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL POLITICS BUT WHEN I GOT THERE, HE HAD HIS OWN
LIST OF ITEMS WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD PUSH FORWARD
POLITICAL INTEGRATION AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. HE
OFFERED:

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A. HIS THANKS FOR OUR INITIATIVE IN TABLING A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON DETENTION ON GENOCIDE CRIMINALS. HE HAD RECENTLY TALKED TO THE FRENCH ABOUT THIS AND HOPED THEY WOULD NOW SUPPORT IT.

B. HIS CHAGRIN THAT JUSTICE GOLDSTONE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING IT WOULD BE OVER A YEAR BEFORE ANYONE WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL. EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE, THE MINISTER NOTED, GOLDSTONE SHOULD HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY ASTUTE ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT SUCH STATEMENT WOULD CREATE TENSION AND GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG A PEOPLE WHO HAD SUFFERED AS THE RWANDANS HAD.

C. RWANDA'S DESIRE TO HAVE PEACE CORPS RETURN.

D. HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD HELP RWANDA SET UP A MUSEUM OF GENOCIDE WITH SITES AROUND THE COUNTRY TO REMIND PEOPLE OF WHAT HAPPENED.

E. HIS DESIRE TO HAVE A "CONCLAVE" OF RWANDAN POLITICAL LEADERS TO MEET INFORMALLY AND GRAPPLE WITH THE LONG RANGE ISSUES FACING THEIR COUNTRY.

F. HIS SPECULATION THAT OTHER COUNTRIES MUST SURELY HAVE PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO RWANDA EMERGING AS IT IS FROM A PERIOD OF "POST CIVIL WAR, POST MASSACRE AND POST GENOCIDE." PERHAPS RWANDANS COULD LEARN FROM TRAVELLING TO SUCH COUNTRIES AND SEEING HOW THEY COPE.

3. BEFORE I GOT INTO THE SPECIFIC ITEMS ON MY AGENDA (RWANDAN ARMS IN ZAIRE AND MODIFYING THE EMBARGO--SEE SEPTTEL), I RESPONDED TO THE MINISTER'S LIST WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

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A. FRENCH SUPPORT FOR OUR RESOLUTION WAS NOT ALL THAT APPARENT. WE HAD BEEN QUITE ISOLATED IN THIS INITIATIVE; EVEN THE RWANDAN DELEGATE SEEM TO BE WAFFLING ON HAVING A RESOLUTION WITH VIGOROUS LANGUAGE. THE MINISTER PROMISED TO CALL AND STRENGTHEN HIS DELEGATE'S SPINE.

B. WE TOO WANTED THE TRIBUNAL SET UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, UNDERSTOOD ITS POLITICAL NECESSITY AND HAD BEEN PUSHING FOR QUICK ACTION.

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C. TO GET PEACE CORPS BACK HERE, WE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE AN OFFICIAL LETTER OF INVITATION TO A SURVEY TEAM. THE MINISTER PROMISED I WOULD HAVE ONE BEFORE I DEPARTED FOR WASHINGTON.

D. I WOULD EXPLORE THE IDEA OF A GENOCIDE MUSEUM ESPECIALLY WITH PRIVATE FUNDERS WHEN I WAS IN THE UNITED STATES.

E. THE IDEA OF AN INFORMAL MEETING OF POLITICAL LEADERS WAS ONE I HAD SUGGESTED BEFORE THE WAR. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT NOW TO DRAW LEADERSHIP AWAY FROM THEIR URGENT DAILY TASKS, BUT I WOULD DISCUSS THE IDEA WITH TRAINING EXPERTS WE HAD IN COUNTRY.

F. RWANDA'S RECENT HISTORY SEEMED TRAGICALLY UNIQUE TO THOSE OF US CLOSE TO THE SITUATION, BUT THERE MIGHT BE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM OTHER STATES' EFFORTS AT RECONCILIATION AND NATION BUILDING. IT WAS AN IDEA WORTH EXPLORING.

4. COMMENT. THE MINISTER CONSIDERS HIMSELF AN MAN OF IDEAS AND SOMETIMES HE HAS GOOD ONES, BUT SELDOM THE TIME TO FLESH THEM OUT OR ORGANIZE THEIR ACHIEVEMENT. THE IDEA OF INVITING PEACE CORPS BACK IN, FOR EXAMPLE,

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HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE VICE PRESIDENT KAGAME'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER. I DOUBT WE WILL GET THAT LETTER OF INVITATION SOON. WORD IS THAT THE MINISTER HAS BEEN TOO BUSY REORGANIZING HIS STAFF TO GET ANYTHING ELSE DONE. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT HE DID TAKE THE TIME TO CALL NEW YORK AND BUTTRESS RWANDAN SUPPORT FOR OUR DRAFT RESOLUTION. RAWSON

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